

2/9/25

Sermon – The Reward

Scripture – 1st Cor 2:6-16, 1 Cor 15:39-58

Main Message – What are the rewards for being a Christian? It is beyond our understanding, but it is there for those who love him.

For years and years most of us have done some type of work and we were rewarded for it. Who works without a reward? Even volunteers are rewarded. It may not be money, but it can be satisfaction of a different sort. Labors always result in some reward. As a Christian, do you believe/work for a reward? It is a complex question and can make you think about yourself and about God and about the example of Jesus.

Let me read this scripture from **1st Corinthians**, which Paul recites from the Book of Isaiah 64.

There are two important distinctions here. Those who are inspired by the Spirit and those who are not. It is always the case. You believe it or you do not. The Spirit that moves believers is of God. That is your first reward. It's up to you to listen, up to you to act upon your belief, up to you to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

With that first reward comes the knowledge of your eternal salvation. I like to think that nothing compares to that reward. Imagine for a moment eternal life. We can read it, hear it, but while in our mortal form, we cannot fully grasp it, but at least we know it. Which takes us back to vs.9. It occurred to me that eternal life, we which we have heard is not the gift of eternal life, so there are other rewards from God that is for us that we don't know. So, is the message done? Not quite.

The rewards from God to us who believe has already begun. Too often we forget that. Look all the way back to vs. 6 & 7. Those new in their belief, who have not yet matured are still working out the fullness of walking in the Spirit, with that Spirit comes POWER NOW, not later. Those with a mature faith walk this life in power, not in fear, walk in the fullness of love, not hatred, and walk with a heart of service, not in neglect. Those who are mature walk in peace, righteousness, and holiness and not because of our own making, but because of the Spirit who moves us.

Just like the gifts God has given us, so also is each of our gifts unlike that of others. This is the fullness of the Body of Christ. My rewards will not be your rewards, and God has tailored them to us individually as only our Father can. Overcoming the world in each of our individualistic ways is a demonstration of fullness of our Lord. I can in no way tell you what those gifts are. So is the message done? Not Quite,

If you think you are going to float around in heaven eternally with a harp in your hand, well think again – unless of course that is the reward you are hoping for. Rev 15:2 does tell us that harps are given to those who are overcomers by their victory over the Beast that is in the world. So, yes there are harps and why wouldn't we play music to celebrate the Lord. With a song in our heart that bubbles out like no other. This is how 1st Cor 15 tells us what it means to take on the imperishable. Your Body will be renewed. Your body will never hold you back like the one you are in now does. Our flesh is weak, causes us to sin, that is why we must walk in the Spirit. It is why I desire for you to grow as I desire it for myself as well. We are all in a process of maturing and growing. But is that all?

I was asked to do this message, and I thought to myself, well there isn't much in the Bible to go on. But when you look for it, there actually is a lot. So much so, that I couldn't possibly put it into a single message. Will I do a series on it though? No, because I want you to search for it. A Christian may start out wanting the rewards of eternal life. Understandable. But the mature Christian is a servant of the Lord out of Love and Thankfulness and not because of reward. But I will leave this last piece of God's word with you this day.

Rev 21-1:7

But before that, there is work to be done.